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Message Text

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61
ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 /126 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:SPDAWKINS:BAS
APPROVED BY EUR/NE - WILLIAM BUELL
EA/VN - MR. BARTLEY (DRAFT)
---------- 061590
R 191809Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: VN, FI, PFOR
SUBJECT: FINNISH CHARGE BRIEFED ON VIETNAM

1. FINNISH CHARGE ARTO TANNER CALLED JULY 17 ON DEPUTY DIRECTOR BARTLEY, VIETNAM WORKING GROUP, FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF SITUATION IN VIETNAM. BARTLEY HAD JUST RETURNED FROM EXTENSIVE VISIT THERE AND MADE FOLLOWING POINTS: THE GUERRILLA WAR VIRTUALLY ENDED IN 1972, AND PRESENT FIGHTING IS PRIMARILY BETWEEN CONVENTIONAL NVA DIVISIONS AND ARVN WITH BOTH SIDES USING HEAVY ARTILLERY AND ARMOR; US BELIEVES NVA WILL CONTINUE SIGNIFICANT MILITARY PRESSURE ON GVN, BUT NOT AT LEVEL OF 1972 OFFENSIVE; NORTH VIETNAMESE OBJECTIVE CONTINUES TO BE UNIFICATION OF VIETNAM UNDER HANOI CONTROL.

2. TANNER WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT NVA WAS DOING ALL THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTH AND THAT VC UNITS HAD ALMOST CEASED TO EXIST. CONVENTIONAL NATURE OF WAR WAS ALSO NEWS TO TANNER. BARTLEY SAID HE HAD FOUND NVA FORCES IN SOUTH TO BE LARGER AND BETTER ARMED THAN
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IN 1972, BUT THEY APPARENTLY HAD MORALE PROBLEMS

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SINCE DESERTION RATE WAS UP AND THERE WAS PERVASIVE
EVIDENCE OF WAR WEARINESS. ON OTHER HAND, ARVN
COMMANDERS HAD ADJUSTED THEIR TACTICS TO COMPENSATE
FOR LOWER LEVELS OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND SEEMED TO HAVE

AIR OF CONFIDENCE NOT ALWAYS NOTICEABLE IN PAST.

3. TANNER OFFERED NO COMMENTS, BUT WAS CLEARLY
PLEASED WITH BRIEFING. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: martinml
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